

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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R 181208Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7348

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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(C O R R E C T E D C O P Y) FIRST LINE OF TEXT ON ORIGINAL
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, CH

SUBJECT: STRAUSS VISIT TO PRC

SUMMARY: CHAIRMAN MAO'S MEETING WITH CSU CHAIRMAN
FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS MADE HEADLINES THROUGHOUT THE
FRG. MOST COMMENTARIES MENTION CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S
ALLEGED GROWING IRRITATION AT BEING UPSTAGED BY FRG
OPPOSITION LEADERS VISITING PEKING, AND REPORT RUMORS
THAT THIS MAY CAUSE SCHMIDT TO POSTPONE HIS SPRING
VISIT TO THE PRC. FRG PRESS SPOKESMAN BOELLING DENIED
THE RUMORS, STATING THAT STRAUSS'S VISIT WOULD HAVE NO
IMPACT ON THE CHANCELLOR'S PLANS. BOELLING ADDED,
HOWEVER, THAT FRG INTERNAL POLITICS MIGHT MAKE IT
NECESSARY TO SCHEDULE SCHMIDT'S VISIT AT A SOMEWHAT
LATER DATE THAN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED. END
SUMMARY.

1. FRONT PAGE STORIES IN THE FRG PRESS
STRESS THAT CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS IS THE FIRST FRG
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POLITICIAN TO BE RECEIVED BY CHAIRMAN MAO. AFTER

MEETING WITH MAO AT AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION, STRAUSS ALSO MET WITH PREMIER CHOU. COMING ON THE HEELS OF STRAUSS'S LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH VICE PREMIER TENG AND FONMIN CHIAO, THE MEETINGS WITH MAO AND CHOU HAVE APPARENTLY IRRITATED OFFICIALS IN THE CHANCERY AND THERE IS TALK OF POSTPONEMENT OF THE CHANCELLOR'S VISIT TO PEKING.

2. MUCH OF THE PRESS COVERAGE DREW A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE DISCUSSION SEVERAL WEEKS AGO OF STATE SECRETARY OF THE CHANCERY, MANFRED SCHUELER, WITH PRC AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG, WANG CHU, AND THE RUMORS OF A POSTPONEMENT OF SCHMIDT'S TRIP TO THE PRC. WANG SUBSEQUENTLY DEPARTED FOR PEKING WHERE HE IS AT PRESENT. PRESS ACCOUNTS RE THE REASON FOR THE SCHUELER/WANG MEETING VARY. ACCORDING TO THE BONNER RUNDSCHAU, SCHUELER REMINDED WANG WHO WAS THE HEAD OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. ANOTHER VERSION IN THE GENERAL-ANZEIGER STATES THAT WANG WAS TOLD THAT SCHMIDT WOULD GO TO THE PRC ONLY IF HE WOULD SEE MAO.

3. ON JANUARY 17, FRG PRESS SPOKESMAN BOELLING STATED THAT STRAUSS'S VISIT TO PEKING WOULD HAVE NO INFLUENCE ON THE CHANCELLOR'S PLANS, BUT THAT A PRECISE DATE HAD NOT YET BEEN SET FOR THE TRIP. BOELLING ADDED THAT HE FORESAW A SCHMIDT TRIP TO THE PRC IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1975, BUT STATED THAT FRG INTERNAL POLITICS MIGHT REQUIRE A SOMEWHAT LATER DATE THAN THAT ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED.

4. COMMENT: THE RED CARPET TREATMENT ACCORDED STRAUSS HAS PROBABLY PROVOKED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ANNOYANCE WITHIN THE CHANCERY, BUT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE MAINTAINED THAT STRAUSS'S RECEPTION IN PEKING WILL HAVE NO BEARING ON THE CHANCELLOR'S PLANS. DESPITE THE EFFUSIVE PRAISE WHICH CHINESE LEADERS HAVE HEAPED ON STRAUSS DURING THIS VISIT COUPLED WITH STRAUSS'S UNEXPECTEDLY ROYAL TREATMENT (HE HAS BEEN GIVEN A MUCH MORE ELABORATE RECEPTION THAN THAT ACCORDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EITHER SCHROEDER OR KOHL), SCHMIDT'S INTEREST IN A TRIP TO THE PRC WILL REMAIN BASICALLY UNAFFECTED. END COMMENT CASH

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